

Message Text

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60

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:GRUECKERT:BCM

APPROVED BY EUR - MR STABLER

EUR/CE - MR GEORGE

EUR/P - MR GEHRON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, UR

SUBJ: PROPOSED PRESS RESPONSE ON BERLIN ISSUES

REF: BERLIN 1962

STATE 221887

1. WE AGREE WITH MISSION THAT PREPARED RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTIONS WOULD BE BEST APPROACH. CONCERNING PLACE OF RESPONSE, WE FAVOR BERLIN, BUT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO BONN, IF FIELD CONSIDERS THIS WOULD BE MORE DESIRABLE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE WASHINGTON IS APPROPRIATE SITE SINCE THESE MATTERS ARE RECEIVING NO PUBLICITY AT ALL IN US PRESS. WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING SOMEWHAT ABBREVIATED TEXT BASED ON HELPFUL BERLIN DRAFT.

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2. BEGIN TEXT:

QUESTION: THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS IN RECENT WEEKS THAT THE OTHER SIDE IS ENGAGING IN SOMETHING OF A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE WEST GERMAN PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN AND AGAINST THE WEST BERLINERS. I REFER TO PROTESTS AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN, ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNING MAYOR, AND RECENT GDR CURRENCY STEPS LIKELY TO REDUCE VISITS BY WEST BERLINERS TO EAST BERLIN AND

EAST GERMANY. HOW DO YOU VIEW THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

ANSWER: WE VIEW THESE ACTS AS HIGHLY UNFORTUNATE. THEY IN NO WAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE "ELIMINATION OF TENSION AND THE PREVENTION OF COMPLICATIONS" FOR WHICH THE QUADRI-PARTITE AGREEMENT WAS DESIGNED. WE HOPE THEY PROVE TO BE ABERRATIONS RATHER THAN INDICATIONS OF A CONSCIOUS CAMPAIGN.

THE ALLIES HAVE MADE THEIR VIEW CLEAR TO THE SOVIET UNION WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRG ENVIRONMENT OFFICE. THAT OFFICE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE ALLIES, AND IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE QUADRI-PARTITE AGREEMENTS PROVISION FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TIES BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND WEST BERLIN.

THE DOUBLING OF THE MINIMUM CURRENCY-EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS FALLING AS IT DOES MOST HEAVILY UPON THE POOR AND UPON ELDERLY PENSIONERS IS A MOST UNWELCOME DEVELOPMENT. IT IS SCARCELY CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE AND CONTRARY TO GDR COMMITMENTS TO IMPROVE CONTACTS BETWEEN GERMANS. WE WOULD BE QUITE CONCERNED IF IT RESULTED IN A REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF VISITS THAT WEST BERLINERS CAN MAKE TO EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR.

AS FOR OTHER GDR AND SOVIET COMMENTS, THEY HAVE NOT, OF COURSE, BEEN MADE DIRECTLY TO US. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ HAS DEALT WITH THEM FORCEFULLY AND APPROPRIATELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WE SUPPORT WHAT HE HAS SAID AND DONE.

KISSINGER

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